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tween social states, except that each suffered from a poor constitution. States of society succeed one another, thrones rise and fall, ministers appear and disappear, and we are left in darkness as to any sufficient reason, the author, as far as he is visible, being apparently a fatalist and pessimist, as he truly declares that most able Frenchmen are. We are told little or nothing about public opinion, except that on one occasion it was "nauseated," and about the great constructive elements which undoubtedly exist in the French life of the nineteenth century we get no adequate information at all. Of course there are some praiseworthy qualities in the effort of M. Lebon. He does not lose himself in details; he gives a useful outline of events in their sequence; he is fairly interesting. He may be a scientific thinker, and in his attempts to connect literature and life in their various phases there are indications that he has examined some questions with scientific curiosity. There prevails also in his work a sense of self-respect and a feeling of patriotism which command our admiration.

Geschichte Europas seit den Verträgen von 1815 bis zum Frankfurter Frieden von 1871. VON ALFRED STERN. Zweiter Band. (Berlin: Wilhelm Hertz. 1897. Pp. xvi, 572.)

THE first volume of Dr. Stern's history of Europe since 1815 appeared in 1894 and at once won its way to the favor of scholars. In this, the second volume, published last year, the author has continued the narrative from the year 1820 to the year 1825, and has not only fully maintained the standard already established, but all things considered, *me judice*, has given us results of even greater interest and merit than were those presented in the first volume. This is due partly to the fact that the period dealt with abounds in dramatic situations and incidents, partly to the greater unity of the subject, which tends to hold the attention of the reader, and partly to the increasing wealth of material of a personal character—letters and the like—which the author has utilized in writing his book.

Dr. Stern begins his volume with a careful and elaborate account of the Spanish revolution of 1820, passes to that of Portugal of the same year, and then, crossing the sea to Italy, takes up the earlier phases of the Neapolitan uprising. He then examines the circumstances attending the calling of the congresses of Troppau and Laibach, and with two valuable chapters on the diplomatic efforts of Metternich, the deliberations of the plenipotentiaries, and the results of their meetings, completes his study of the first phase of the general revolutionary movement in Europe. He next describes the Greek revolution, devoting altogether nearly a quarter of the book (125 pages) to the history of this subject from 1820 to 1825; and in the midst of his narrative, having brought the Grecian movement to the year 1822, returns to the Spanish revolt, works out the situation in France, and by this path come to the calling of the congress of Verona and the intervention of the French in Spain. At the close of this chapter

he gives to the counter-revolution in Portugal a dozen pages, and then considers at length the reaction that followed the revolutions in Spain and Italy. Having completed this phase of his subject, the author turns northward, and for the first time engages himself with the history of Germany, touching but lightly the situation in the lesser states, and laying chief stress upon events in Prussia, the work of the various commissions on the constitution, and the final victory of the feudal element and the bureaucracy. At this point, in order to prepare the way for an intelligent discussion of England's influence upon the course of events in Greece, Dr. Stern devotes a chapter to the history of England. This finished, with the situation in the various countries well in hand (though no attempt is made to study Russian politics), the author continues the history of the Greek revolution to the death of Alexander I. and the disruption of the Holy Alliance. He closes his volume with a chapter on the movement in literature and an appendix of documents.

From this brief survey it will be seen that, notwithstanding the strictly chronological character of the treatment, there exists in the work a certain organic unity, which the first volume did not possess. This is due to the fact that the events of the period revolve about Metternich and the congresses, and that Dr. Stern has allowed this fact to determine the arrangement of his material. It is quite true that he discusses the political history of each state independently and in detail, yet inasmuch as the order of his topics is fixed by the course of events abroad, he leaves the impression that he is giving us the internal history of France and England, for example, not for the purpose of explaining the downfall of Richelieu and the policy of the Ultras, the trial of Queen Caroline and its political consequences, but rather that we may better understand the attitude of the countries toward the doctrine of intervention. And the method employed is justified in this volume by the solidarity of the European diplomacy of the period treated, and in the work as a whole by the fact that, written in large part from new and original material, it was necessary to construct it chronologically, line by line, even in every part. The work can never become a purely popular history ; it is written in narrative fashion without any attempt at that philosophical or logical treatment which demands continuity, and is entirely free from personal comments, evidences of partisanship, and attempts at fine writing, such as make for shortness of life in an historical work.

In examining the material that Dr. Stern has employed, we find that it consists of letters, accounts, despatches and instructions of French, Prussian, Russian, Sardinian, Tuscan, and Austrian ambassadors, consuls-general, and special representatives ; of the hitherto unpublished correspondence of prominent ministers and diplomatists, such as Metternich, Capodistrias, and Pasquier ; of letters of royalty, of King Ferdinand of Naples and King Ferdinand of Spain, some of which are printed in the appendix. It is worthy of note that Dr. Stern records no material from the English archives. By means of the evidence thus obtained and with the aid of some recently published memoirs and monographs, the

author has been able to cast new light upon the doings of congresses and the motives of statesmen, to overthrow legends, to supplement memoirs or throw doubt upon them, and in a number of instances to correct errors in the writings of other historians. Note, for example, what he says regarding the legends that have clustered about the youth of Charles Albert, pp. 71, 72, 379; his use of new material to supplement or correct Baumgarten's history of Spain, pp. 20, 35, 119; and the wealth of new evidence that he has obtained for the study of the congresses of Troppau and Laibach and especially of Verona, pp. 129, 151, 292, 572. Some of these documents he had previously made accessible to scholars by publishing them in various journals, as Dalberg's draft of a constitution for Piedmont (1820) in *Rivista Storica del Risorgimento Italiano*; Strassoldo's letters to Metternich in the *Zeitschrift für Social- und Wirthschaftsgeschichte*; Hardenberg's memoir upon the Prussian constitution and Metternich's Troppau-memoir in the *Forschungen zur deutschen Geschichte*; and others in the *Revue Historique* and *Historische Zeitschrift*. The appendix to the present volume contains a number of valuable documents, and one can only wish that Dr. Stern would edit a collection of sources and so make accessible a larger number of the documents that he himself has used.

Dr. Stern does not often express personal judgments, but when he does he is usually happy. Brief comments upon Metternich after Laibach (p. 180), upon the death of Richelieu (p. 265), upon Chateaubriand at Verona (p. 297), and upon the death of Hardenberg (pp. 385-386) show his skill in brief, epigrammatic character-drawing. Generally, however, he is content to let us judge the personality of the men of whom he treats by the work that they accomplished. He has eliminated himself and his own opinions almost entirely from his work; yet he is always interesting, because his method is simple, his treatment scholarly, his statements accurate. His work is attractive, not for its style, its literary qualities, its brilliant word-painting, or its tricks of presentation; it is simply narrative history, suggestively and impartially presented.

To complete the work at the present rate of progress will require more than thirty years in addition to the six or more already consumed. Dr. Stern has set for himself an enormous task, and the thought of Lanfrey, Sybel, Freeman, and others who have died in the harness is sure to arise and to make us wish for the author the blessing of a long life. But time and health are not the only desiderata; material is equally necessary. Access to official documents, which Dr. Stern has thus far used with such admirable judgment, will become more and more difficult as he advances in the century, for the European governments—except Prussia, and now alas! no longer Prussia,—have hitherto rigidly shut the door against any scientific treatment of recent history, and have forbidden the publication, except with the official *imprimatur*, of state papers concerning the last half-century. Time may remedy this and Dr. Stern may find the doors opening as he advances and may be able to utilize the archival material for the later period with the same success as he has the

earlier. If this should prove to be the case, the reader may well be content with the slowness of the publication.

CHARLES M. ANDREWS.

Report of the Historical Manuscripts Commission of the American Historical Association, 1896. [Ext. from the Report of the American Historical Association for 1896.] (Washington: Government Printing Office. 1897 [1898]. Pp. 463-1107.)

IN 1895 the Executive Council of the American Historical Association appointed an Historical Manuscripts Commission to edit, index, or collect information in regard to unprinted documents relating to American history. Professor Jameson, who had for several years advocated and worked for the establishment of such a body, was fitly made chairman. The other members of the Commission as originally appointed were Mr. Douglas Brymner, Mr. Talcott Williams, and Professors Trent and Turner. The first Report of the Commission is now before the public. The main part of this report consists of six parcels of hitherto unpublished material, five of which vividly illustrate the political feeling and methods, the economic wants and interests of the principal divisions of the country in the formative period of our nation-life, 1783-1800. The remaining parcel contains some intercepted letters purporting to be written by an officer in the English army in 1756 to the Duke de Mirepoix proposing to betray the English interests in the West to the French if the necessary money is provided. These documents seem to me the least valuable in the Report. Mr. Brymner in his introduction is very non-committal on the question of their authenticity. "These and other facts," he says, "give a greater color of probability to the authenticity" of these letters. Although I have not studied them closely enough to venture a very positive opinion, I am inclined to think they are merely, in the words of Halifax, "an artifice to draw a little money from France." The bragging tone and the inconsistencies in the narrative arouse one's suspicions. The complete uncertainty of any fact alleged in these letters that is not elsewhere confirmed makes their value slight at best. Halifax conjectured that the writer was an Irishman because the spelling seems to indicate an Irish pronunciation. Professor Jameson has arrived at the same conclusion. It seems to me, however, that the French idioms in the writer's English indicate that he was a Frenchman who had acquired a good command of colloquial English, but who was not secure from an occasional lapse to native forms of expression. If he learned his English from Irishmen the peculiarities of his spelling are accounted for. On the other hand, the French idioms are of a kind that no foreigner would acquire. For example, p. 664, "I've some time ago, been very ill used by the English Governours here have within these 15 days, been solicited to be at the head of a considerable army," etc. The use of "15 days" instead of "fortnight" seems to me an almost convincing indication that the writer was thinking partly in French or else that the